

Pesticide Protocol: South Burlington School District

Pesticides destroy, prevent, or repel pests, such as insects, weeds, and rodents. The use of pesticides may also cause harmful health effects in humans if not used properly. Children are thought to be at greater risk from pesticide exposure than most adults due to their size relative to concentration levels. Children have more frequent hand-to-mouth contact as well as probability of contact at surface level where pesticides are usually applied.

With this in mind, the South Burlington School District provides the following guidelines:

The South Burlington School District will only use EPA approved pesticides. The Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act regulates the use of pesticides in the United States, but there are no specific provisions in the law about the use of pesticides in schools. EPA will register a pesticide, thereby permitting its sale and distribution, if the agency determines, among other things, that the pesticide will not generally cause unreasonable adverse effects on human health or the environment. Registration decisions are based in part on studies of the pesticides' effects and toxicity, some of which are designed to assess the risks to infants and children. The South Burlington School District will only use EPA approved pesticides in accordance with the directions outlined. That is, regardless of where they are used, pesticides are used only as directed by their labels.

South Burlington School District has taken initiatives and actions over the last decade to reduce the use of pesticides in schools by employing alternative pest management strategies. Taken together, these alternatives are commonly referred to as integrated pest management and may include making structural repairs to prevent pests from getting into a building, using baits and traps as needed, improving sanitation, providing proper receptacles and limiting food and drink to designated areas. If pesticides are needed, integrated pest management suggests that the least-toxic chemical controls that will be effective, be used. Additionally, commercial applicators are typically contracted to apply pesticides dependent on the location and extent of infestation.

South Burlington School District's principal means of ensuring proper use of pesticides is enforcement of the MSDS and agency-approved label directions, restrictions, and precautions.

Timing of pesticides is crucial. Whenever possible, pesticide application on school grounds and within the building should be done when students are not present, and ideally on days preceding weekends or holidays when the concentration of student population is minimal. Additionally, in all cases, school classrooms should only be treated when students are not present and that all treated surfaces should be dry before the students are allowed to return.

Signs will be posted when pesticides are in use to restrict area.